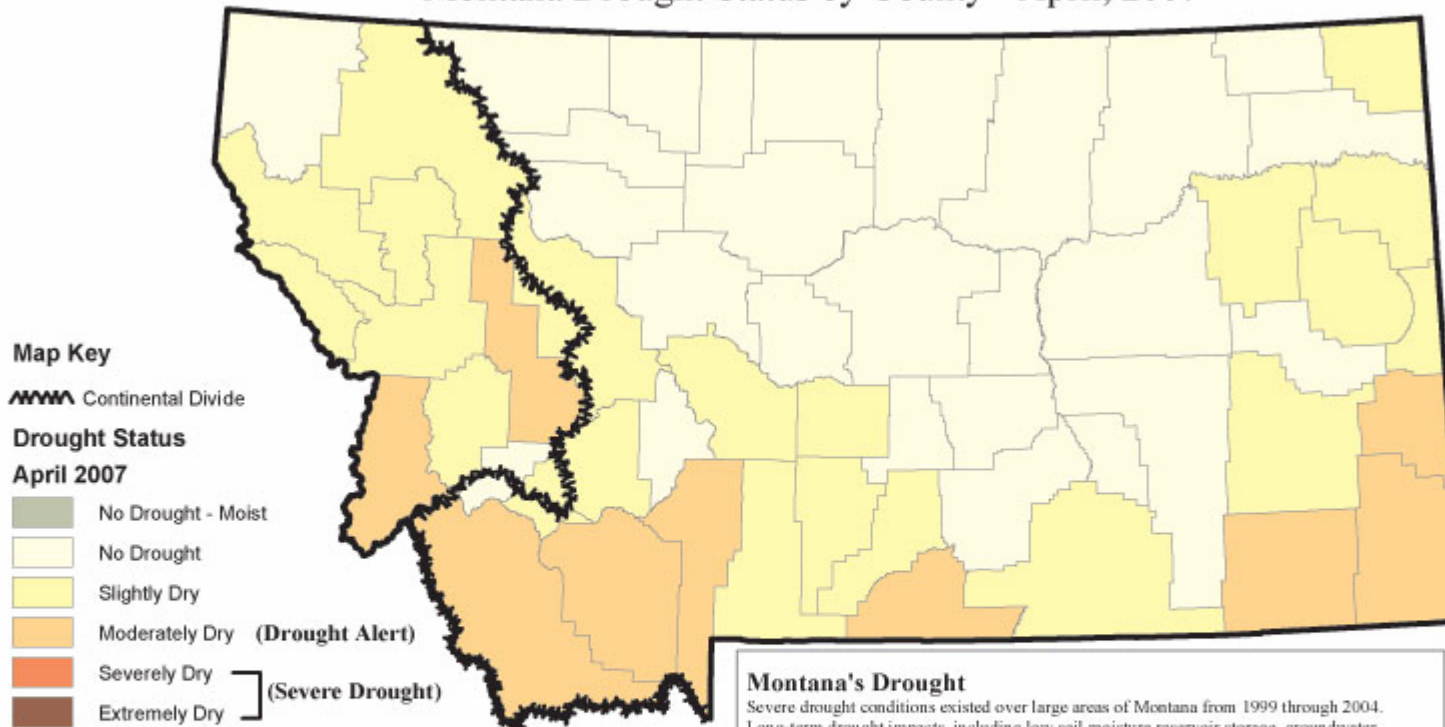


Montana Drought Status - April

Montana Drought Status by County - April, 2007



Drought Impact Types - **A** = Agricultural - Soil Moisture, Range conditions

H = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

Drought Alert - Governor's Drought

Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

Severe Drought - Local officials

should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity.

For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan.



<http://nris.mt.gov/drought/>



<http://drought.mt.gov/>

Montana's Drought

Severe drought conditions existed over large areas of Montana from 1999 through 2004. Long-term drought impacts, including low soil moisture, reservoir storage, groundwater, and streamflow continue to persist in some areas where short-term relief was experienced periodically over the course of 2005-2006.

The Governor's Drought Advisory Committee determines a drought status for each Montana County monthly. The drought status map is intended to inform Montanans of water supply and moisture conditions and to alert counties to so they may respond appropriately.

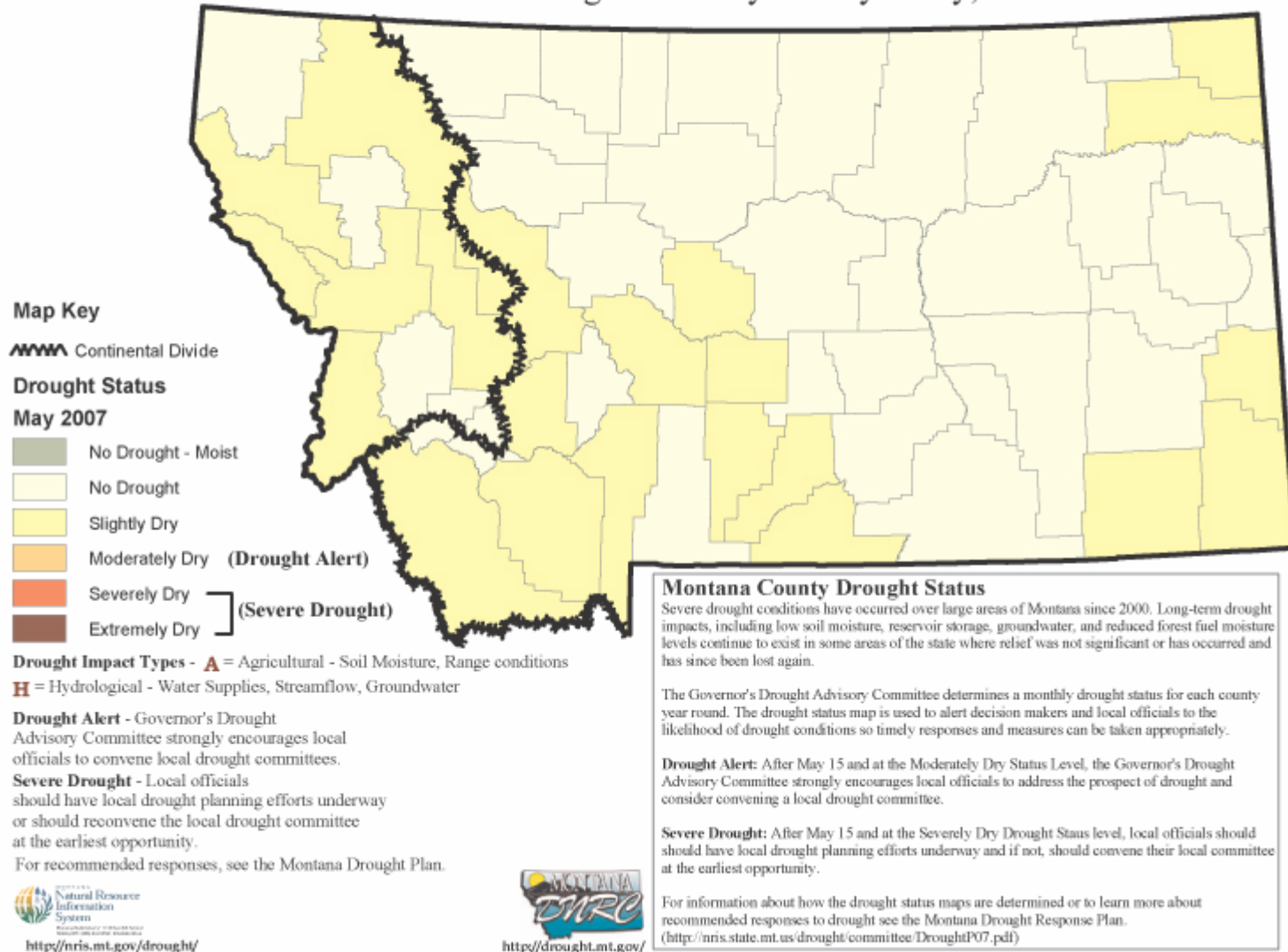
Drought Alert: The Governor's Drought Advisory Committee encourages local officials to organize local drought committees.

Severe Drought: Local drought planning efforts should be underway.

For information about how the drought status maps are determined or to learn more about recommended responses to drought see the Montana Drought Response Plan (<http://nris.state.mt.us/drought/committee/DroughtP.pdf>).

Montana Drought Status - May

Montana Drought Status by County - May, 2007





Governor's Drought Advisory Committee Meeting

May 23, 2007

National Weather Service

Ray Nickless

Phillipsburg, MT



Phillipsburg, MT



05/22/2007

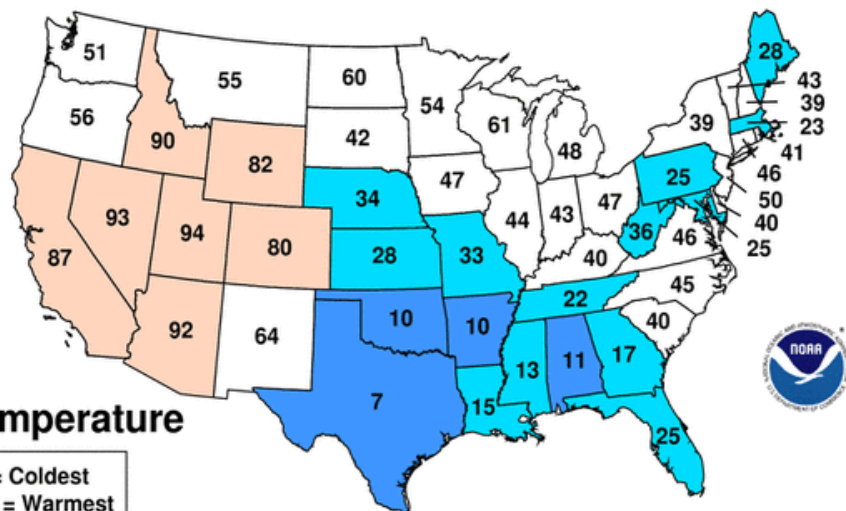
Temperature Rankings

Averaged Across Entire State

Near normal

April 2007 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



Temperature

1 = Coldest
113 = Warmest

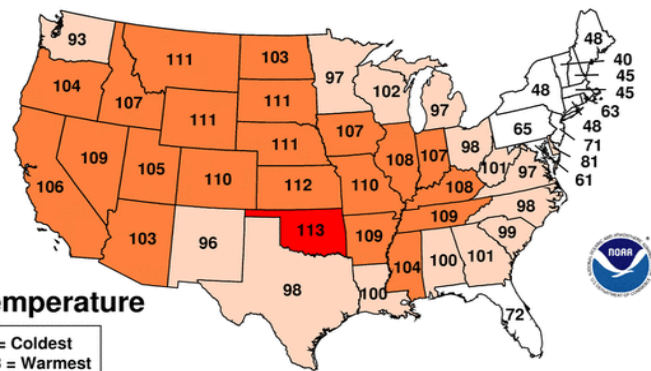


- April 55th coldest of 113 years
- Followed very warm March

3rd warmest

March 2007 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



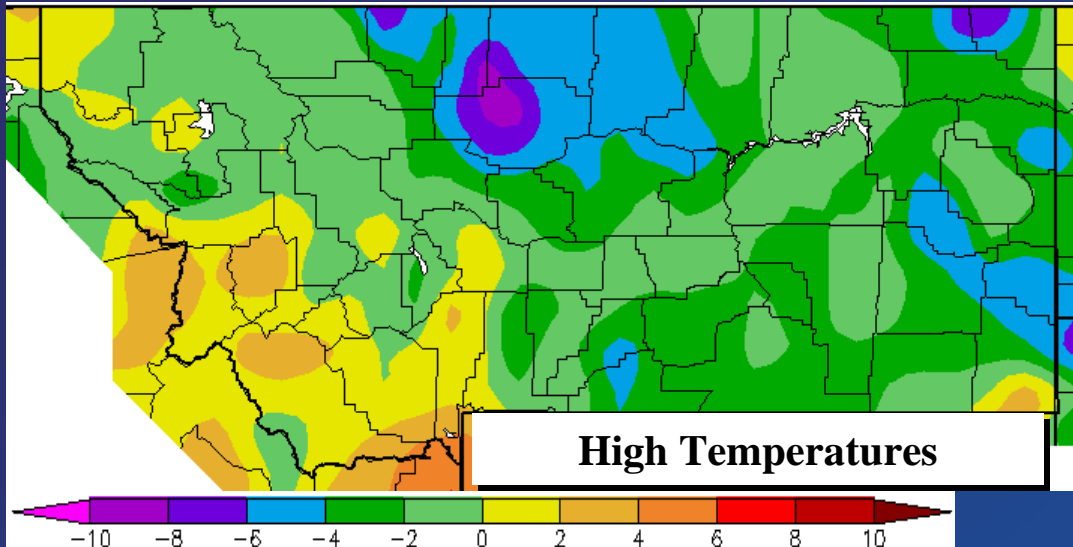
Temperature

1 = Coldest
113 = Warmest



Temperature Anomalies

April 2007

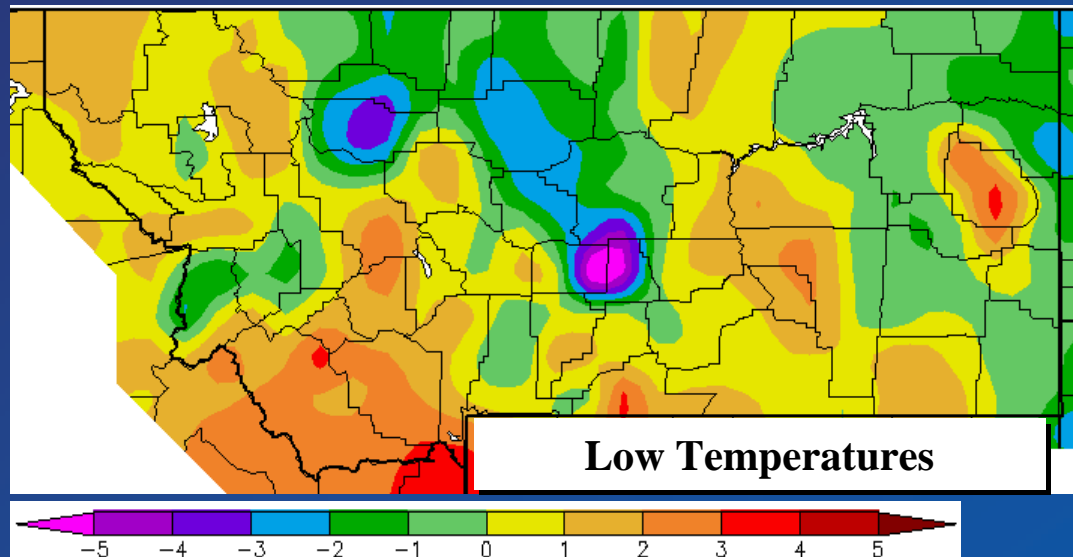


Highs

- *West – Near to slightly above normal*
- *Central and east – Below to well below normal*

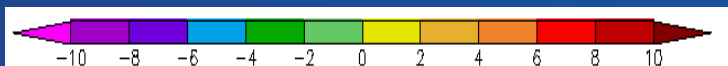
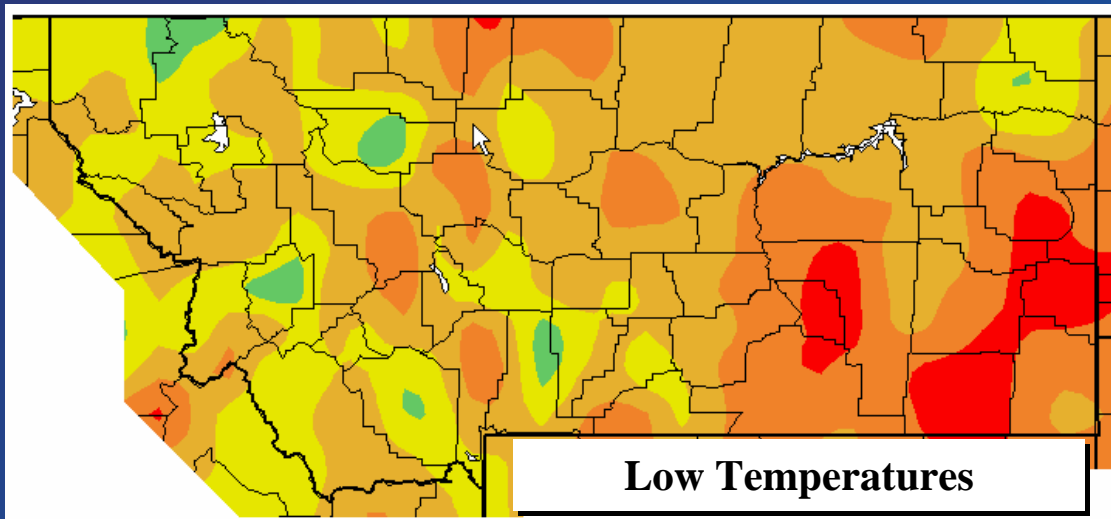
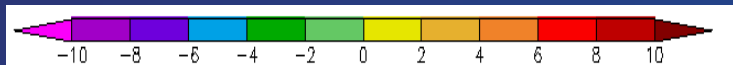
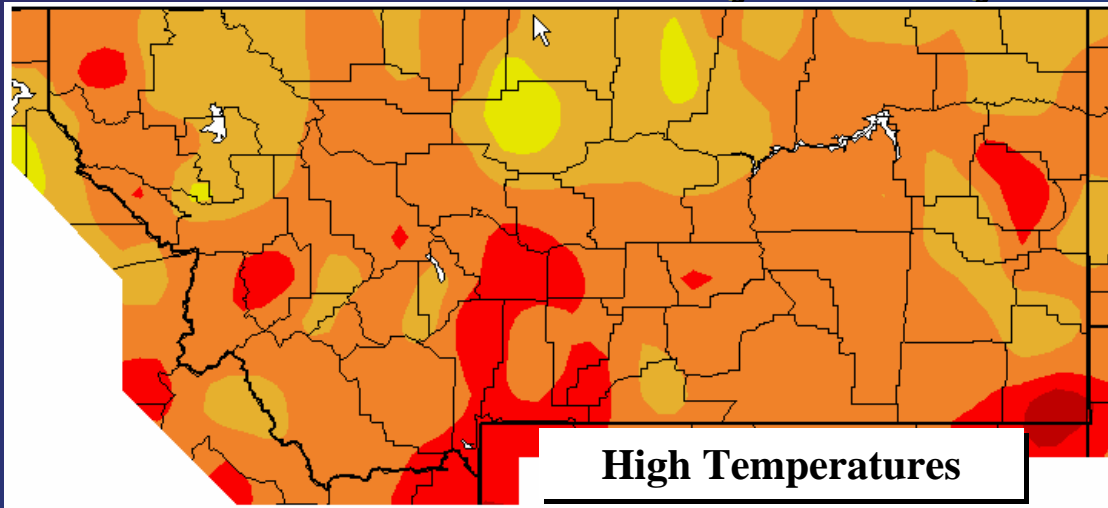
Lows

- *West through south central – Near to above normal*
- *North central... central and east – Near to below normal*



Departure from Average Temperature

May 1 – May 19, 2007



- 💧 Warm overall
- 💧 Highs averaging 4 to 8 degrees above normal
 - 8 to 10 degrees above normal in some areas east of the divide
- 💧 Lows near normal west... slightly above normal east

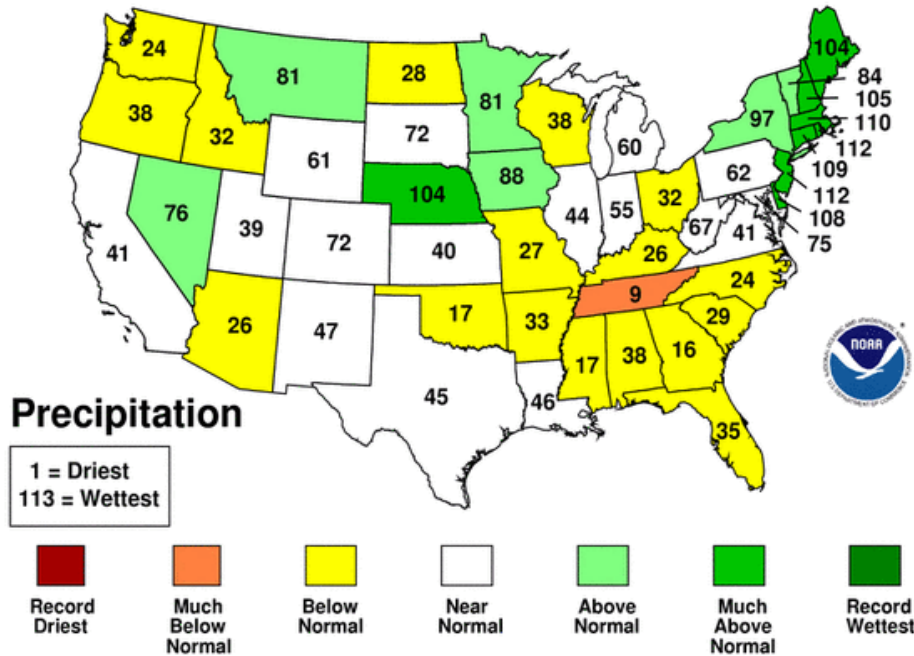
Precipitation Rankings

Averaged Across Entire State

33rd wettest

April 2007 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



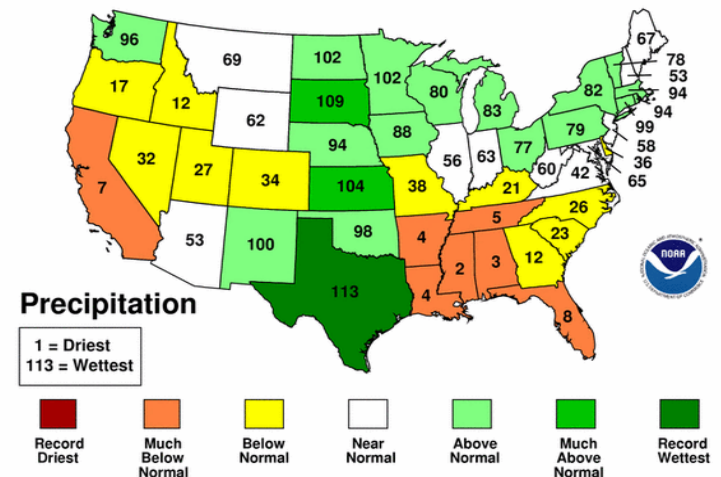
April 33rd wettest of 113 years

Followed near normal March

Near normal

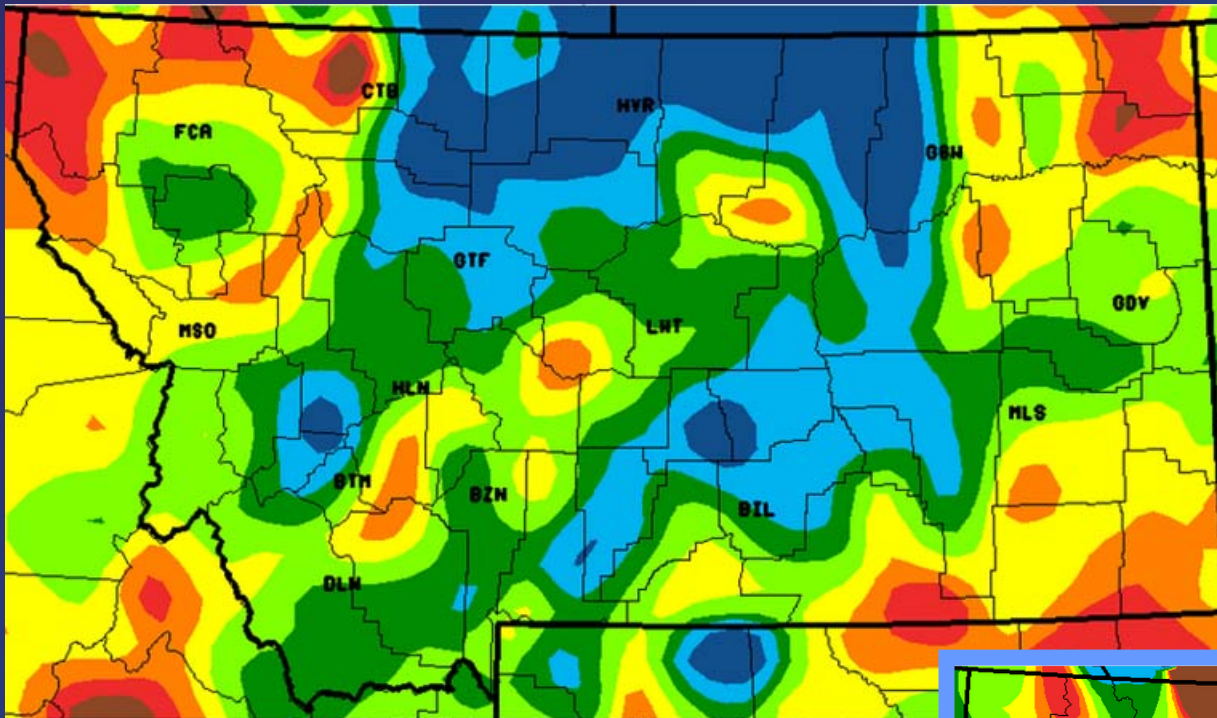
March 2007 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



Percent of Normal Precipitation

April 2007



April 2007 Percent of Normal Precipitation

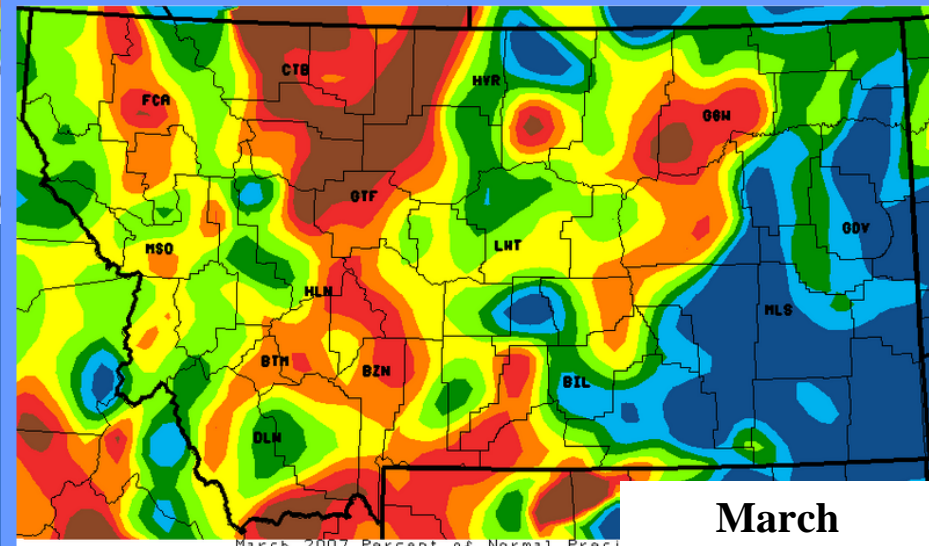
Period of Normal: 1971-2000

20 40 60 85 115 150 200

NOTE: Data used to generate this image are
PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

<http://w>

- Large portion of state above normal
 - North central better than 200% of normal
- Smaller areas below to well below normal
 - Northwest
 - Northeast
 - Southeast

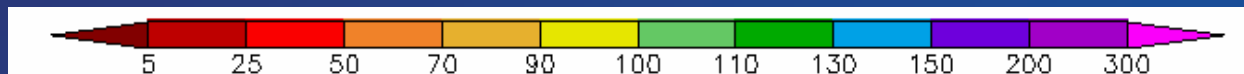
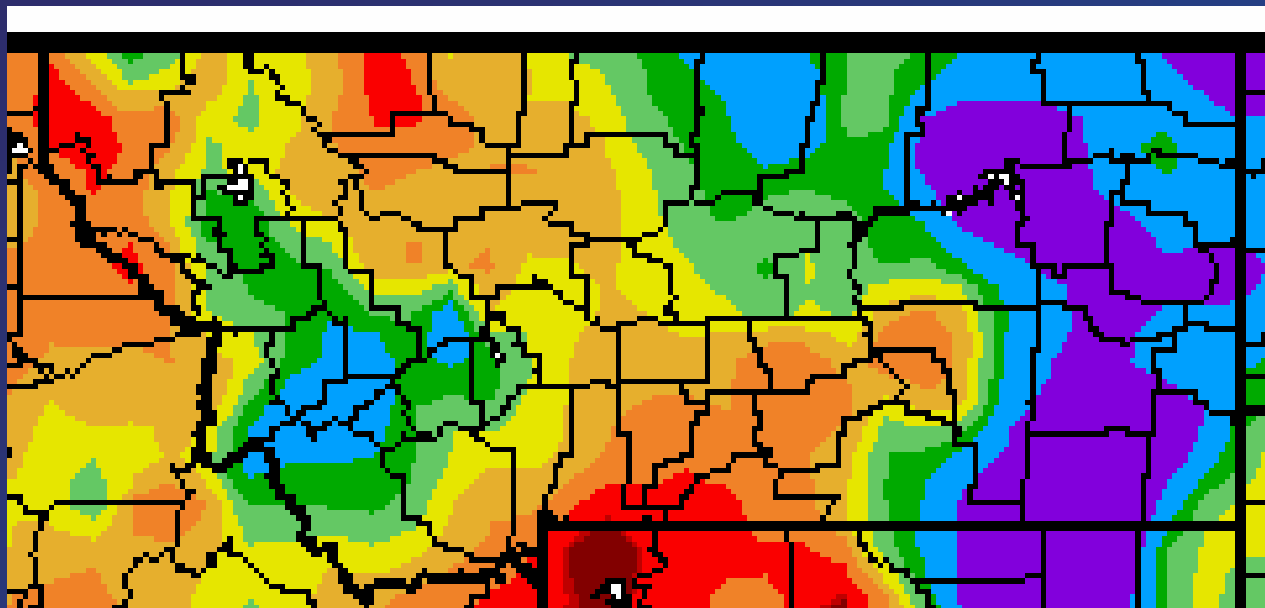


March 2007 Percent of Normal Preci

March

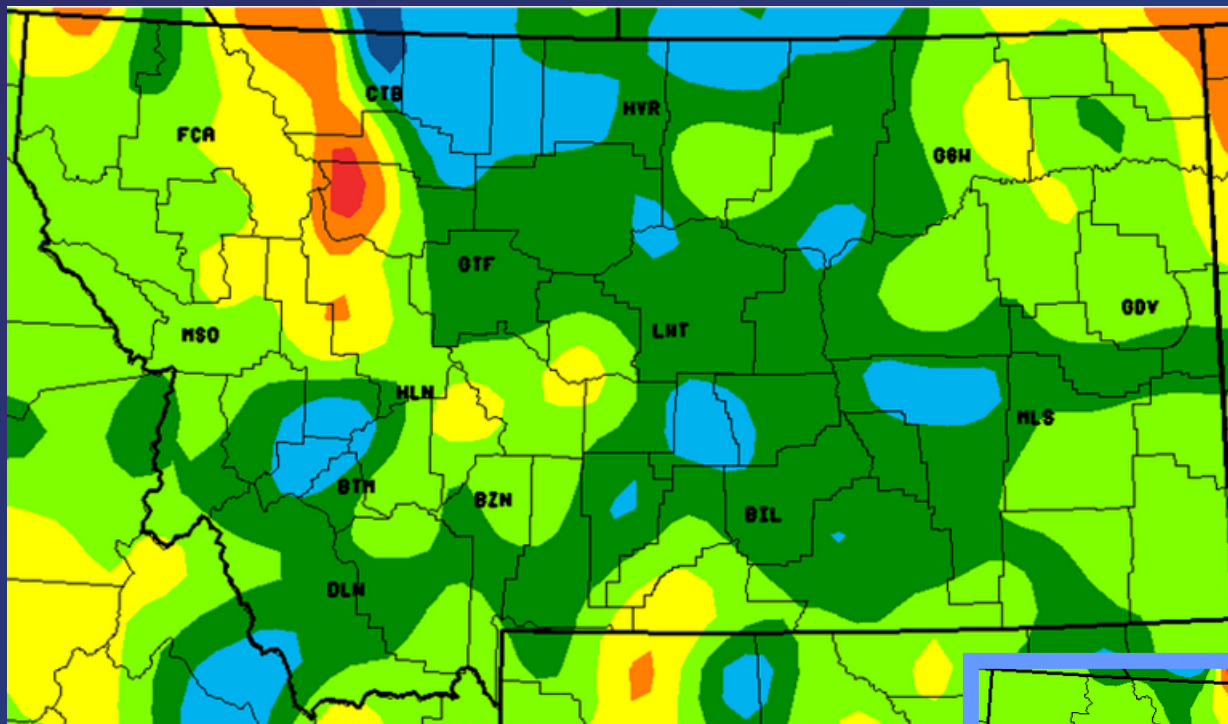
Percent of Average Precipitation

May 1 – May 21, 2007



- About half of state above to well above normal
 - *East is WET with large area better than 300% of normal*
- About half of state below to well below normal
 - *Northwest and south central 5% to 25% of normal*

Percent of Normal Precipitation Water Year 2007



Oct 2006-Apr 2007 Percent of Normal Precipitation

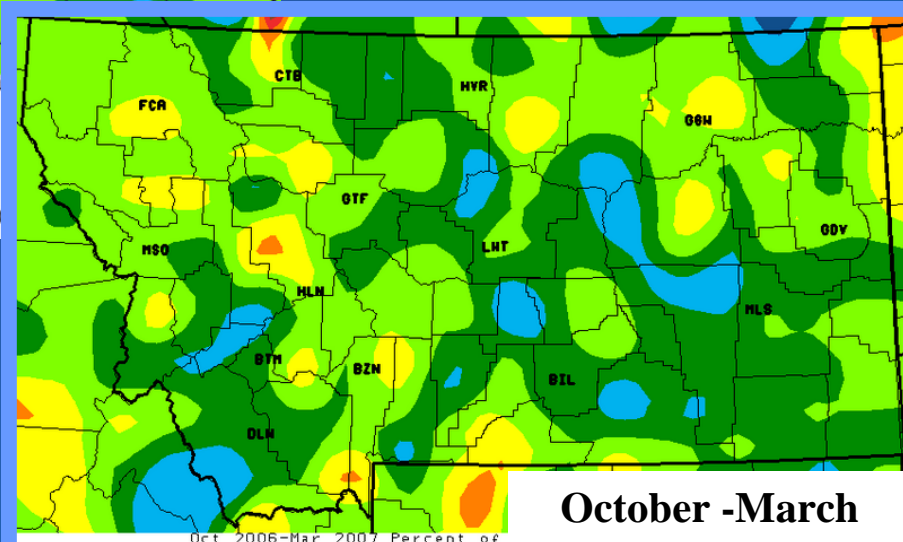
Period of Normal: 1971-2000

20 40 60 85 115 150 200

NOTE: Data used to generate this image are
PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

<http://www>

- 💧 October 2006 – April 2007
- 💧 Most of state near to above normal
 - *Lost some ground along the northern Rockies*

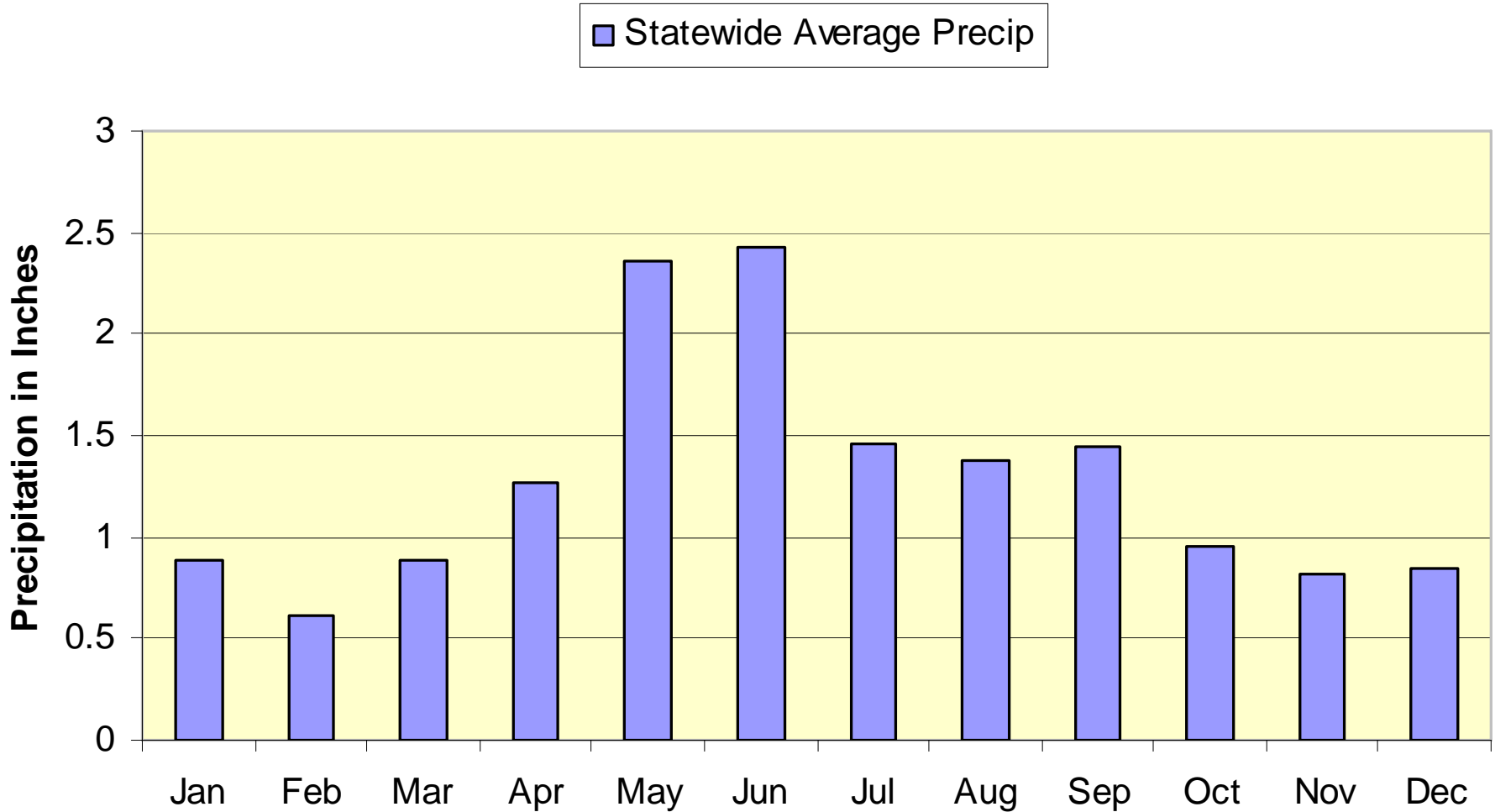


Oct 2006-Mar 2007 Percent of

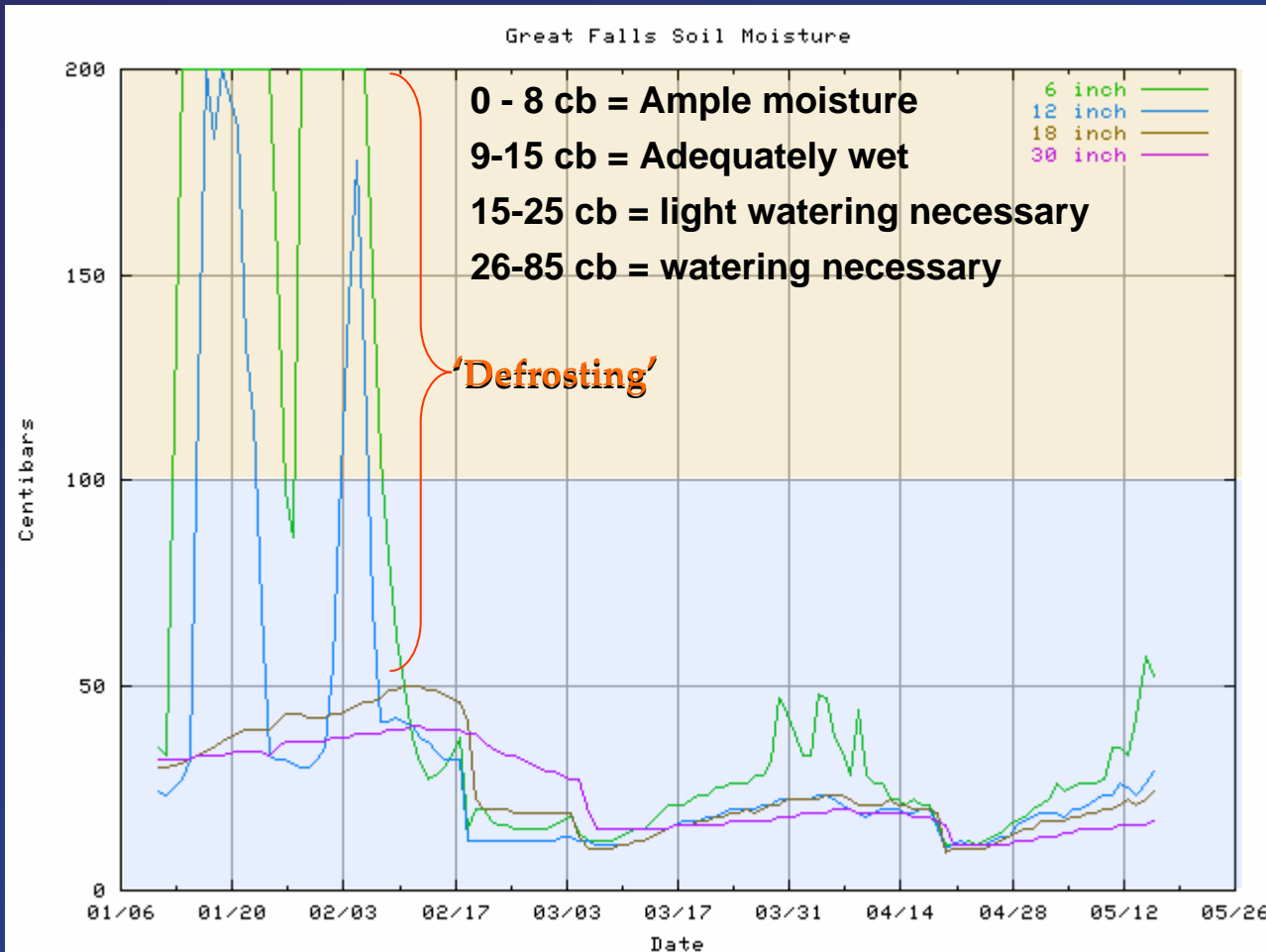
October -March

Statewide Average Precipitation

May second wettest month on average



Great Falls Soil Moisture



- 💧 **12...18 and 30 inch levels moist**
 - 15 to 30 cb
- 💧 **6 inch level drying quickly with recent warm temperatures**

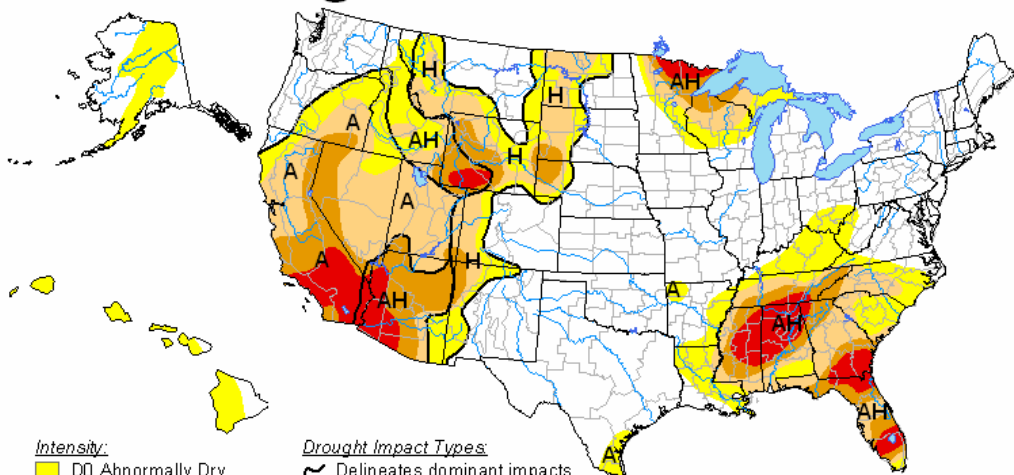
National Drought Monitor

Issued May 15, 2007

U.S. Drought Monitor

May 15, 2007

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)

The Drought Monitor
Local conditions may
for forecast statements

<http://www.drought.gov>

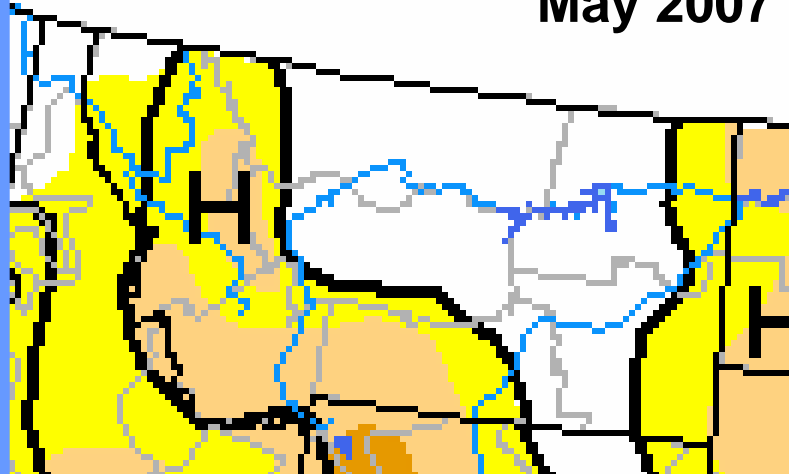
💧 Drought expansion west of divide

- Abnormally Dry (D0) to Moderate Drought (D1)

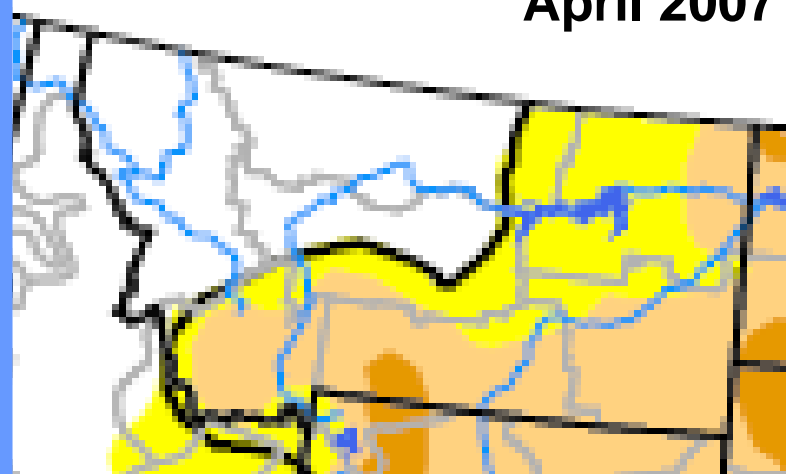
💧 Drought decrease south... central and east

- Moderate Drought (D1) removed
- Still some Abnormally Dry (D0) along the eastern border

May 2007

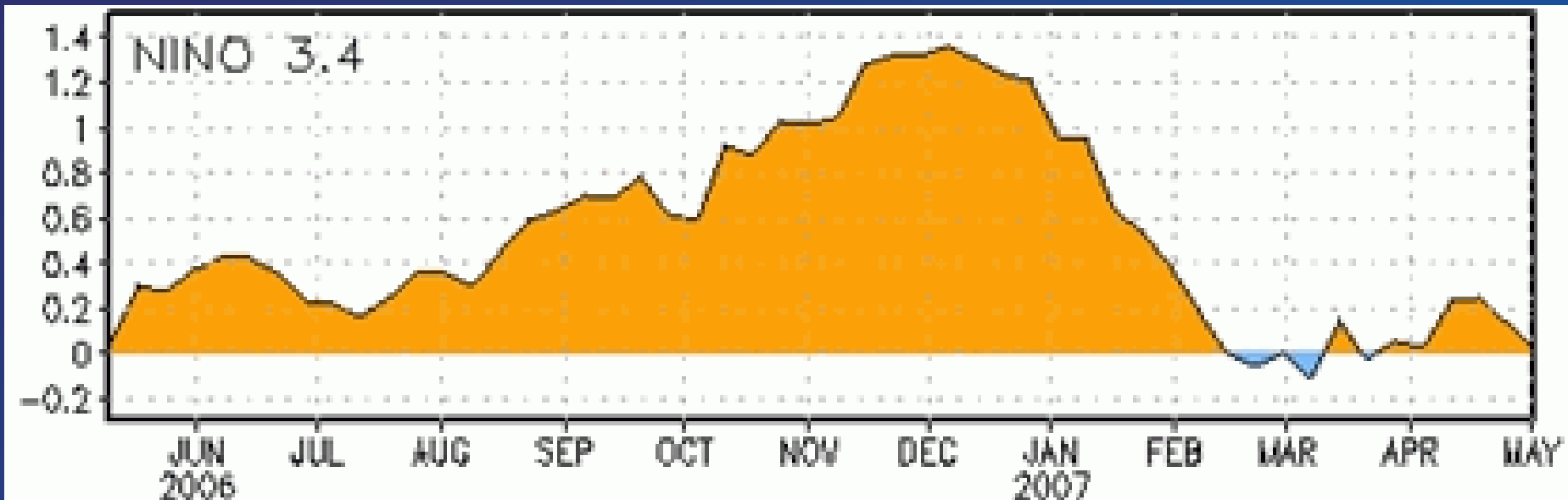


April 2007



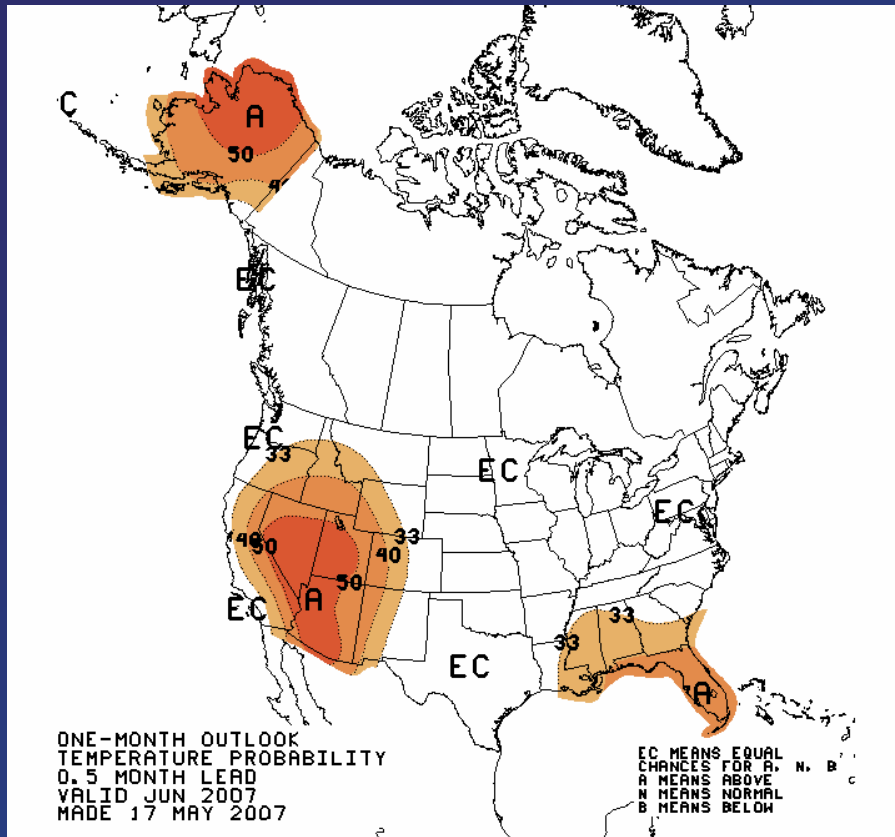
El Niño / La Niña

- El Niño / La Niña conditions currently in neutral phase
- Transition from neutral to La Niña conditions (below normal sea surface temperatures) possible during next 2-3 months



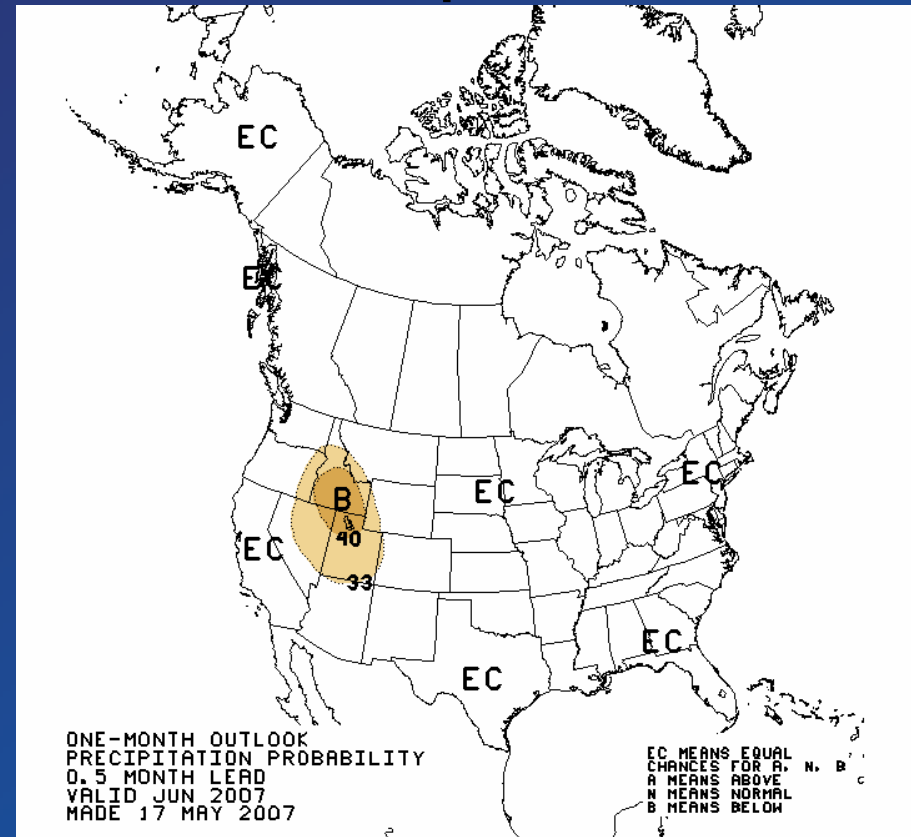
June Outlook

Temperature



- Southwest – 33% to 40% chance temperatures will be above normal
- Remainder of Montana – No forecast skill
 - Equal chances temperatures will be above... below or near normal

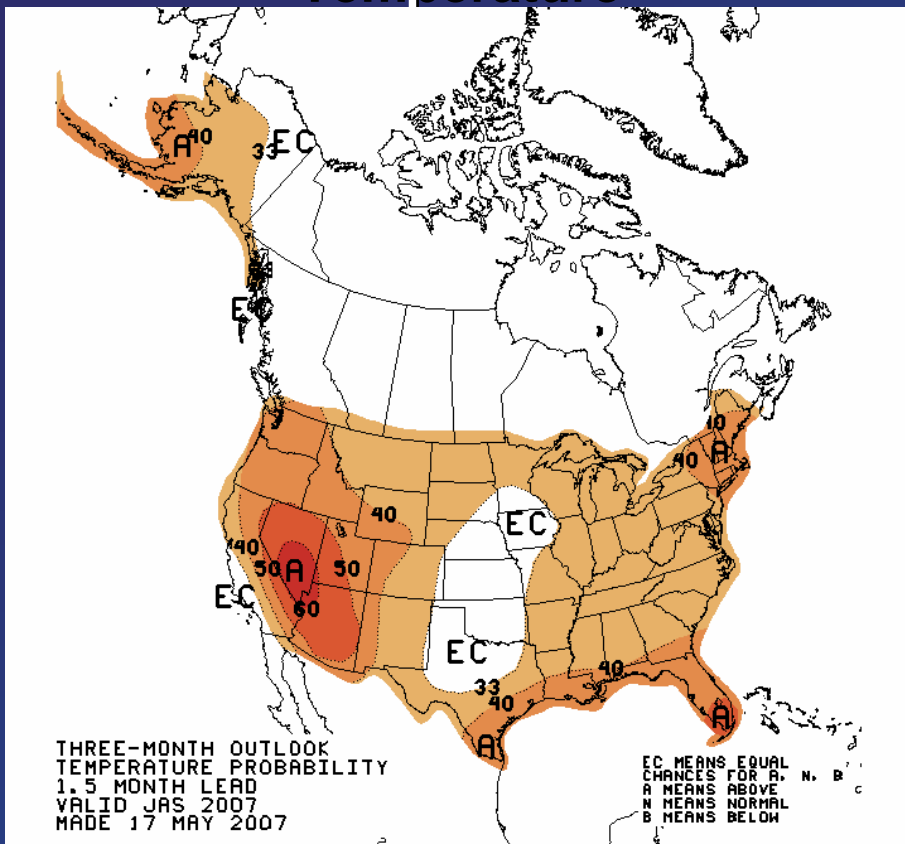
Precipitation



- No forecast skill across most of Montana...
 - Equal chances precipitation will be above... below or near normal
 - Small area extreme southwest with 33% to 40% chance for below normal precipitation

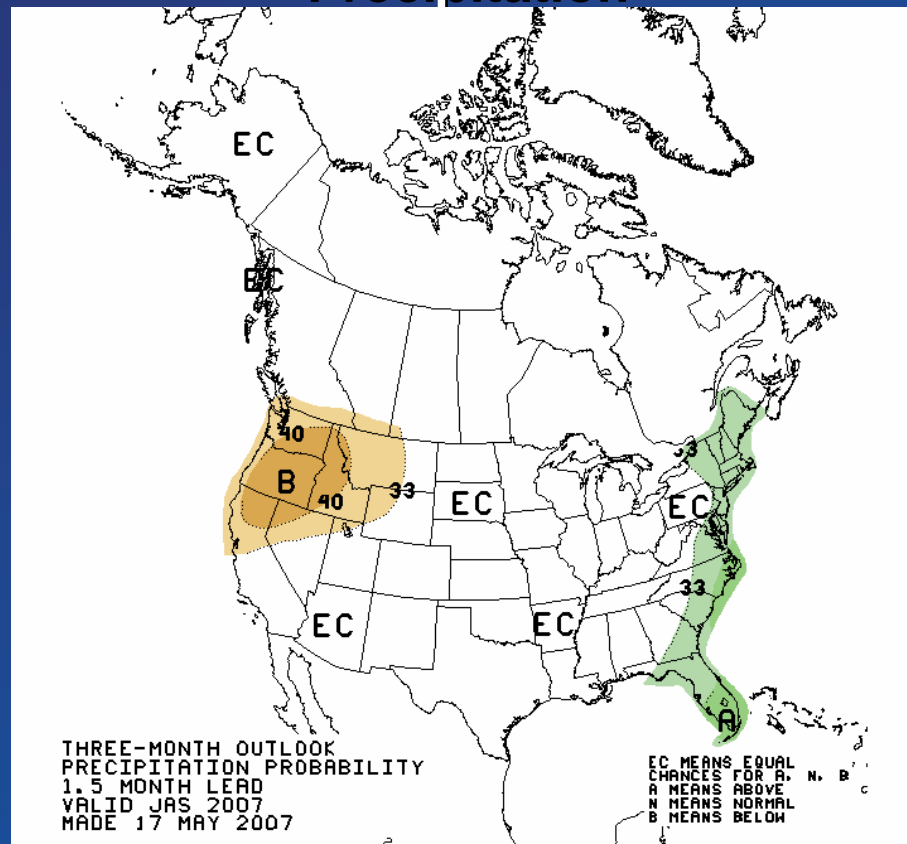
July – September Outlook

Temperature



- 33% to 40% chance of above normal temperatures across all of Montana

Precipitation



- West and central Montana... 33% to 40% chance of below normal precipitation
- East – No forecast skill
 - Equal chances precipitation will be above... below or near normal*

Drought Outlook through June

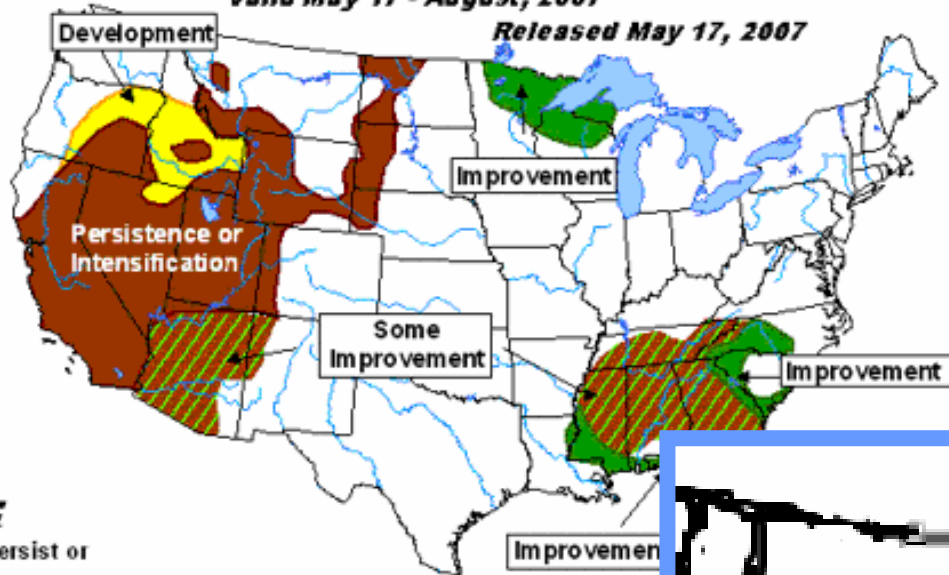
Issued May 17, 2007

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid May 17 - August, 2007

Released May 17, 2007



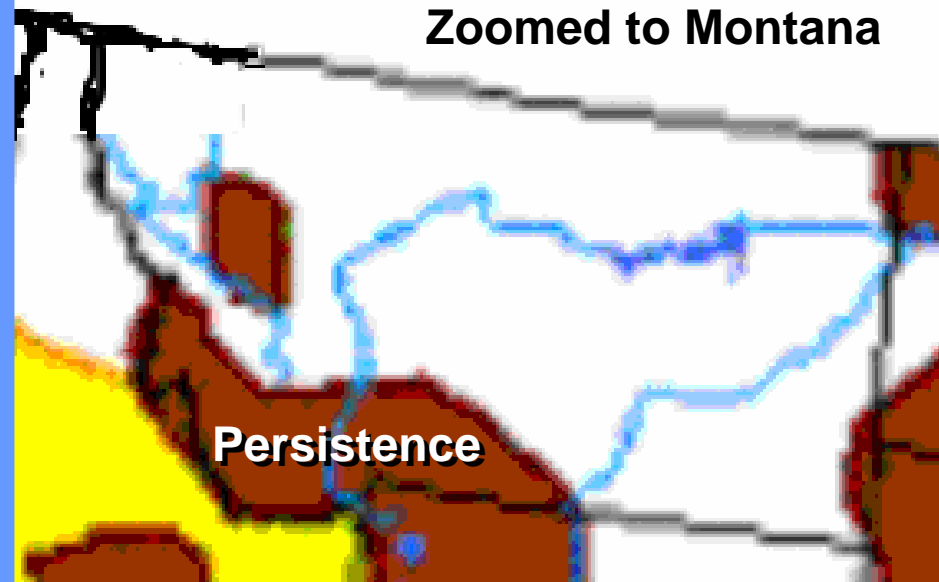
KEY:

- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probability short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be a "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor. For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. Areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

Areas in drought status expected to see drought persistence through the summer

Zoomed to Montana





The End